

Baker, Raymond T.

1917-1922

Woodrow Wilson
Feb. 11, 1917. President Woodrow Wilson yesterday appointed Raymond T. Baker, Director of the Mint.

Mr. Baker, who is of the breezy Westerner type, came to Washington as the confidential secretary and associate of Senator Key Pittman of Nevada. When George Marye was named as ambassador to Russia, Mr. Baker went to Petrograd with him serving in a confidential capacity.

When Mr. Baker was Warden of the Nevada State Penitentiary, he established the "honor system" in that institution, and a story reflecting on his humane qualities is told in this connection.

A baseball game between the inmates of the prison was scheduled for the day on which a prisoner was to be hanged. The man asked for a few hours grace to see the baseball contest. His request was granted and he was made umpire of the game.

Sometime after the hanging Mr. Baker was asked if the man made a good umpire. "He did not," replied Baker in a sadly reminiscent mood. "The poor fellow's mind was not on the game."

Mr. Baker is a close friend of Secretary Tumulty. He is understood to be interested to a limited extent in mining properties in Nevada. He is 40 years old and unmarried.

From: The Public Ledger,
Philadelphia, Pa.

King

RAY T. BAKER

Prospector for gold

Warden of the Nevada State Penitentiary

Secretary to American Ambassador to
Russia Marye

Appointed Director of the Mint by
President Wilson, Feb. 10, 1917

January 19th, 1922

Raymond T. Baker, Esq.
Director of the Mint
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

In connection with the issue of the Peace dollar, it has been suggested that the American Numismatic Society publish a brochure giving the history of this coin with all the details procurable.

We consulted with Mr. James E. Fraser (of the Art Commission) as to the advisability of doing this, and he was most cordial in stating that he believed it would serve a good purpose. Both Mr. Fraser and Mr. de Francisci are members of our Society, and as Director of the Mint, you are ex officio an honorary fellow. Our Society has, therefore, a very direct interest in the piece and we should like to see it properly published.

May I say for your information that our Museum is the only institution in the world devoted entirely to numismatics. I am taking the liberty of enclosing a booklet such as we propose issuing in order that you may see that the publication would be dignified. We should try to illustrate the various stages of the design, including the rejected model of the reverse; and to give details regarding the competition which was won by de Francisci.

There is much that could be recorded with very little trouble now which in future will be valuable, but which would be much more difficult to obtain after any considerable lapse of time.

I am submitting all this data in the hope that you will approve our plan. Mr. Fraser informs me that this Peace dollar has long been a cherished idea of yours.

As you doubtless know, our Society is in a position to reproduce the dollar, being expressly given that privilege in the Act which prohibits reproduction by others. We should greatly appreciate your early consideration regarding the matter, and I should be glad of any suggestions which may occur to you in this connection.

Trusting your response will be a favorable one, I am
Very respectfully yours,